

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-17 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 9 are independent.

Claims 1, 3 and 9 have been amended. The multiple dependency of claims 4 and 7 have been removed by introducing new corresponding claims 15-17. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because figure labels 101 and 110 are pointing to the same element, and the specification discloses that the band 110 is replaced with the wire 130 (however, both elements are found in the figure).

In order to address the Examiner's objection, Applicants are submitting corrected formal drawing of Figure 5 concurrently herewith.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Saito

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,965,974 to Saito et al. (Saito). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in an implosion proof structure in a flat cathode ray tube having a panel upon which atmospheric pressure is exerted as the flat cathode ray tube is evacuated, including implosion proof means strapped around and onto an outer circumferential surface of a funnel in the vicinity of said panel, said implosion proof means being spaced apart from said panel of said flat cathode ray tube. Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Saito.

The Examiner states that Saito discloses, in figure 1 and throughout the disclosure, an implosion proof structure in a flat cathode ray tube having a panel, comprising implosion means (7) strapped on an outer circumferential surface of a funnel (6) in the vicinity of the panel (1) of the flat cathode ray tube.

Applicants respectfully submit that implosion proof means (7) is not

spaced apart from panel (1) but overlaps with panel 1 and is disposed directly thereon.

Thus, the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Saito.

Claims 2-5 depend, either directly or indirectly, on independent claim 1, and therefore are patentable at least for the reasons stated with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Dougherty

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,930,015 to Dougherty et al. (Dougherty). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in an implosion proof structure in a flat cathode ray tube having a panel upon which atmospheric pressure is exerted as the flat cathode ray tube is evacuated, including implosion proof means strapped around and onto an outer circumferential surface of a funnel in the vicinity of said panel, said implosion proof means being spaced apart from said panel of said flat cathode ray tube. Applicants respectfully submit that this combination

of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Dougherty.

Dougherty discloses a tension band 32 wrapped around the perimeter of faceplate 10 (panel), and holds panel 10 in compression (Dougherty, Col.4, lines 16-17). Tension band 32 is not spaced apart from the panel 10, but rather overlaps panel 10 and is disposed upon a surface thereof. Tapes 60 and 64 are also not spaced apart from the panel 10. Being disposed one upon the other, tapes 60 and 64 both overlap panel 10 (see Fig.3). Further, these tapes only extend along a narrow surface of the funnel. In other words, they are not strapped around an outer circumferential surface of the funnel.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Dougherty, for the reasons explained above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this art grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

Van Den Brink

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,504,298 to Van Den Brink et al. (Van Den Brink). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9 has been amended to recite an implosion proof structure in a flat cathode ray tube including a funnel having a flat portion in the vicinity of the panel and a curved portion extending from the flat portion, the structure including implosion proof means coated on an outer circumferential surface of the flat portion of the panel, excluding the curved portion of the funnel. Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 9 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Van Den Brink.

The Examiner states that Van Den Brink teaches an implosion proof means (17) coated on an outer circumferential surface of a funnel (4) in the vicinity of the panel (2) as shown in Fig. 1A. However, in Van Den Brink, the curved portion of the funnel that extends from the flat portion of the funnel (in the vicinity of the panel) is coated with the means (17). In clear contrast, in Applicants' claimed invention, the implosion proof means is excluded from the curved portion of the funnel that extends from the flat portion in the vicinity of the panel. For example, the strap or coating is in area 120 or near the weld (see original specification, page 10, first paragraph and Fig. 6).

Therefore, Van Den Brink fails to teach at least the above-identified feature as recited in independent claim 9 (as amended).

With regard to dependent claims 10-12, Applicants submit that claims 10-12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 9, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 10-12 are allowable based on their dependence from claim 9. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,858,016 to Suehiro et al. (Suehiro) in view of Dougherty. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Suehiro teaches an anti-explosion band 2 wrapped around the tube envelope 1. Suehiro teaches that there is a seal line of the front panel with the funnel portion (Suehiro, Col.3, lines 33-34). However, the seal line of the front panel is not visible in any of the drawings of Suehiro. According to the drawings, the only possibility is that the anti-explosion band is disposed upon a portion of the panel. If the anti-explosion band abutted the panel, this could be clearly observed. Even in such a case, the anti-explosion band would not be spaced apart from the panel.

Therefore Suehiro fails to teach or suggest a combination of elements in an implosion proof structure in a flat cathode ray tube having a panel upon which atmospheric pressure is exerted as the flat cathode ray tube is evacuated, including implosion proof means strapped around and onto an outer circumferential surface of a funnel in the vicinity of said panel, said implosion proof means being spaced apart from said panel of said flat cathode ray tube, as recited in independent claim 1, as amended. Dougherty cannot supply this deficiency. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this art grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6-8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Saito. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6-8 depend, either directly or indirectly on independent claim 1, and therefore are allowable based on their dependence from independent claim 1, which is believed to be allowable. Allowance of claims 6-8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected over Van Den Brink in view of Capek. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully

submit that claims 13 and 14 depend, either directly or indirectly on independent claim 9, and therefore are allowable based on their dependence from independent claim 9, which is believed to be allowable. Allowance of claims 13 and 14 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 09/731,733
Art Unit 2882
Page 15 of 15

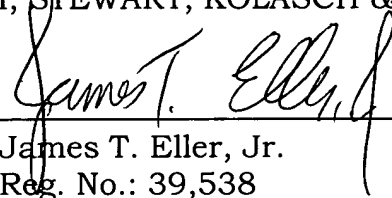
Attorney Docket No. 0465-0780P
Amendment filed May 20, 2004

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By:


James T. Eller, Jr.
Reg. No.: 39,538


JTE:PLS:jls

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
Telephone: (703)205-8000

0465-0780P



Appl. No. 09/731,733
Amdt. Dated 11/07/2003
Reply to Office action of 8/07/2003
Replacement Sheet

FIG. 5

